

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Aug. 30 Sign-up for Fall Sunday school, choirs, and adult classes
9 AM to 11:45 AM in the Parlor
- Sept. 6 **8:15 Chapel Communion Service**
10:00 Childcare (until the end of the 10:15 service)
10:15 Worshipping God Together in the Sanctuary
Joyful Noise sing, **p. 4**
Summer Sunday School — children age 3-7 begin in the 10:15 service and will be dismissed after Children's Time.
Communion Offering, **p. 8**
- Sept. 8 6:00p Carol Choir, **p. 4**
- Sept. 9 Wednesday Morning Bible Study begins 10:30, **p.8**
7:30p Chancel Choir, **p. 4**
- Sept. 11 O's vs. Royals benefit, **p. 10**
- Sept. 12 Community Blood Drive, **p. 9**
- Sept. 13 **FALL SCHEDULE BEGINS:**
8:15 Chapel Communion Service
8:30 Childcare, **p. 7**
8:45 Coffee & Fellowship, **p. 10**
9:00 Sunday School, **p. 7**
Youth Classes, **p. 7**
Adult Classes, **p. 7**
10:00 Children & Worship, **p. 7**
Joy Singers rehearse, **p. 4**
10:15 Worshipping God Together in the Sanctuary
K.I.D.Z, **p. 7**
11:30 Welcome Youth, **p. 6**
11:45 Spiritual Gifts, **p. 7**
4:00p Alleluia Singers, **p. 4**
- Sept. 15 6:45p Genesis Bells, **p. 4**
- Sept. 16 6:30p Tower Chimes, **p. 4**
- Sept. 20 11:30a Youth Group, **p. 6**
5:00p Celebration Ringers, **p. 4**
- Sept. 26 Emergency Food Pantry, **p. 9**
Follow Allie, YWAM, **p. 9**
- Sept. 27 11:30a Youth Group, **p. 6**
6:30p Balt. County Firefighters Annual Memorial Service
- Sept. 28 7:00p Church Council meets, **p. 5**

Towson United Methodist Church
Monthly Newsletter ♦ September 2015 ♦ Volume 56, Issue 9

September High Spire

Pictured here is the results of our youth group's gardening efforts at Phoenix Rising Assisted Living facility Wednesday, June 24. More on p. 6. Photo by the Arthur-Merows.

The **MISSION** of Towson United Methodist Church is to **PLANT SEEDS** of Christian faith by equipping, training, supporting, & *freeing* people to LIVE their *faith* in the world.

Thank you!

THANK YOU to all who participated in VBC! We had close to 80 volunteer counselors, youth and adults, members and non-members. We had 102 children campers having fun while learning about God's love in action. We had an entire congregation—you—praying for us all. Thank you for your faithful dedication to this outreach of our church.

—Rev. Margery Schammel

Thanks to the Vacation Bible Camp attendees for filling 46 Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes. These items help will bring Christmas joy to the less fortunate youth of the world. Please pray for the safe delivery of the these shoeboxes and children recipients.

—John & Nancy Ross

Bill Peters and I delivered Soldier supplies to WRNMMC this morning. We were well received and had our picture taken with the donation... Next visit will be November 3.

—Regards, Vernon Sevier

Thank you so very much for the continued support you all provide for the service members, veterans, and their families receiving care here at Walter Reed. Our volunteers could not begin to assist the patients and families the way that they do without the generosity of individuals like you.

I am attaching the photo Steve took of Vernon and Bill and we will be doing a Facebook Post and tagging the TUMC page. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out!

Look forward to seeing you in November!

—Marin Reynes,
American Red Cross
Walter Reed National
Military Medical Center



Campers, counselors, and the congregation of TUMC collected the following items during Vacation Bible Camp this summer. Wow!

Samaritan's Purse	1,177
Health Kits for the Homeless	791
Food-4-Thought	1,031
Pets in Need	502
Emergency Food Pantry	<u>344</u>
Total items	3,845

THANK YOU! All items have been delivered. We collected enough food-4-thought to feed the children at our assigned schools for the rest of 2015! The volunteers and staff at the MD SPCA on Falls Road in Baltimore were beside themselves with joy! We definitely made a difference in many lives this summer.



Pictured above, Steve, Katherine, and Jennifer Houk, and their kitty. Sunday morning about 6 AM August 9. They moved from Maryland to

Oregon, it took them 4 days, and reported that Nebraska is a very big state to drive through!

Katherine has started school and Jennifer is unpacking in their new home. Steve returned to freshen up their house in Parkville and put it on the market. We will be seeing him here at church for a little while.

Church Staff
and their responsibilities:

Rev. Rod Miller
Lead Pastor

rmiller@towsonumc.org
410-823-3640 (church)
410-465-2335 (home)

- Preaching, worship, administration, pastoral visitation, visioning, and ministry development

Rev. Margery Schammel
Assistant Pastor

mschammel@towsonumc.org
410-823-2485

- Christian education for children, youth, and adults, and worship leadership

Rev. Doug Hollida
Minister of Music and Organist

MusicDirector@towsonumc.org
410-823-6519

- Children, youth, and adult vocal choirs, handbell choirs, worship accompanist, and composer

Kim Ayres
Business

Manager/Receptionist
kayres@towsonumc.org
410-823-3693

- Financial and office administration and liaison to Finance and Trustees

Cathy Anderson
Director of Communications

communications@towsonumc.org
410-823-3689

- Graphic arts, weekly bulletins, monthly newsletters, webmaster, audio and visuals for worship, liaison to missions

Loren Todd
Building Maintenance
Supervisor

ltodd@towsonumc.org
410-823-2153

- Building cleaning, set up, minor repairs, liaison to Property and Maintenance

Bob Ashby
Maintenance Assistant

- Assists in building cleaning and set ups

Pastor's Letter

Welcome Back!

I hope you had a wonderful summer full of the kinds of activities that you enjoyed. Now as September arrives, the temperature outside will start to be a little less sticky, we will enjoy watching the Orioles fight for a playoff spot and excitement will start to build for the Ravens in what looks to be an exciting year.

Church activities will also start up in September. Sunday School and coffee hour will pick up again at 9 AM on September 13. Our many choirs will begin sharing music with us again in September. Sunday worship services will continue at 8:15 in the Chapel and at 10:15 in the main Sanctuary.

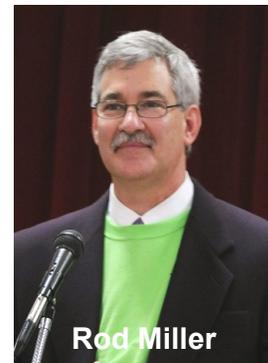
Worship has been exciting all summer and will continue in September as we complete our series on the "Greats" of the Bible. Worship on September 6 will be based on 1 Corinthians 13 – the Greatest of These is Love.

A particular focus this September will be to invite members and friends of TUMC to consider where to serve God through the church this year. Sign ups for Choirs, Christian Education for all ages, and Pathways tutors will be held on August 30. Then on September 13 and September 20, our worship services will highlight membership in the Body of Christ. 1 Peter 4:11 reminds us: *God has given each of us gifts; use them well in service to others.* Serving God at church carries the wonderful benefit of building relationships with each other and with those who are new to our church family.

We have a beautiful church building. Our sanctuary is worshipful and is a gift to the spirit. As beautiful and functional as it is, though, our church building is not the church — the people are the church. You and I are the church and we fulfill God's purpose for us when we come together to serve in the ways we have been blessed to serve. There are as many gifts as there are people! In September, we will offer you the opportunity to share your particular gift through our new program entitled "Servants in Service."

Everyone is gifted and talented by virtue of God's gifts within you. I look forward to how God will form and guide us to use our gifts to further His purpose for us.

In Christ,
Rod



Rod Miller

Unity doesn't begin in examining others but in examining self. Unity begins not in demanding that others change, but in admitting that we aren't so perfect ourselves.

The answer to arguments? Acceptance.

The first step to unity? Acceptance.

Not agreement, acceptance.

Not unanimity, acceptance.

Not negotiations, arbitration, or elaboration. Those might come later but only after the first step, acceptance.

— Max Lucado, *Grace for the Moment*

Music Notes



Rev. Doug Hollida
Minister of Music

Among all of the things starting up this time of year is our music program here. It's time to think about singing and/or ringing your praises to the Lord. Below is a description of all the opportunities, both vocal and handbell choirs, followed by the starting dates. New members are always welcome. In fact, we really need some new

members in all the choirs, both singing and ringing. So if you've ever thought about trying choir, now's a great time!

VOCAL CHOIRS

CHANCEL CHOIR - Adults - Rehearses Wednesday evenings 7:30-9:00. Music reading is not required.

JOYFUL NOISE - All ages welcome! - Rehearses & sings occasionally throughout the year. Come when you can. On the Sundays we sing, we meet at 9:45 to learn an easy anthem. Dates are communicated via email. Email me, please, if you would like to be added to the list.

ALLELUIA SINGERS (6th - 12th graders) - Rehearses Sunday evenings 5:00-6:00.

CAROL CHOIR (2nd - 5th graders) - Rehearses Tuesday evenings 6:00-6:45.

JOY SINGERS (4-year-olds – 1st graders) – Rehearses Sunday mornings at 10:00 during Children and Worship.



HANDBELL CHOIRS

NOTE: Please let me know ahead of your interest in the bell choirs so we can have a spot for you.

GENESIS BELLS - For anyone who does or does not read music and has limited (to no) experience playing bells - Rehearses Tuesday evenings 6:45-7:30.

CELEBRATION RINGERS - For anyone who reads music OR has some ringing experience - Rehearses Sunday afternoons 4:00-5:00.

TOWER CHIMES - Advanced ringers – Music reading is required but ringing experience is not. If you're not sure if you're ready for this choir, let me know and we'll talk about it. Rehearses Wednesday evenings 6:30-7:30.

STARTING DATES

September 6 – Joyful Noise

September 8 – Carol Choir

September 9 – Chancel Choir

September 13 – Joy Singers

September 13 – Alleluia Singers

September 15 – Genesis Bells

September 16 – Tower Chimes

September 20 – Celebration Ringers

NOTE: All rehearsals are in the Music Room (room 321) – 3rd floor near the main stairs.

Choirs offer opportunities to become a deeper part of our fellowship, to engage in ministry, and to grow as a disciple. I hope you will prayerfully consider where God is calling you this September. And if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Peace and blessings,

Doug

TUMCMusicDirector@towsonumc.org
410-823-6519

With the support of the PATHWAYS Board, I delivered 7 [of the PATHWAYS'] lap top computers to John Wesley UMC [to loan] for their summer camp [the last week of June and the first week of July] along with a few other educational resources from the PATHWAYS closet.

This is a picture of some kids who came to register and Rev. Mark Parker who was there to receive the lap tops. They were excited to think they would have the chance to use them!

We were happy to share and I thought you would like to know about this. —Stephanie Kimmons



Some Thoughts on Revitalization

Last month, Pastor Rod shared an article with me that really got me thinking. The article was titled “What It Takes to Revitalize the Mainline” and it was written by Bishop Bruce Ough and Rev. Susan Nienaber, both United Methodist clergy.

Ough and Nienaber begin their article with the assertion that “it is possible to revitalize our mainline congregations and denominational structures.” They then go on to say that much work has been done on the “mechanics” of reversing the current downward trend of mainline denominational churches, but the mechanics are not enough. What is equally important (and I would say, perhaps more important) is “the attitude, mindset, stance, and practices of leaders leading this revitalization work.” As I read through the article, I thought, this is not for only clergy or lay leaders, this applies to every member of our congregation, every person who we worship with, learn with, and live our lives with.

The authors outline eight points in their article, but I felt the first three were of utmost importance to us at Towson UMC, I am going to paraphrase them here.

Prayer is Absolutely Essential!

Everyday it is essential to ground ourselves in prayer. We still operate in a culture where prayer is often about getting something rather than an act of letting go, but the kind of prayer that is necessary for us as church members is about opening ourselves up so that we can be available to God’s purposes - essentially getting out of God’s way.

Believe That God Is at Work and Will Continue To Work.

Closely related to prayer is the firm belief that God is already at work and will continue to work to guide and direct our transformation efforts. A key to success in this is the language that we all use. “What we speak becomes the house we live in” (Sufi poet Hafiz). The pall of despair and decline has become too pervasive. The lamenting must stop and we must focus our whole selves on God’s work – this means being very careful and intentional about the words we choose to use. How do we do that? See point number 3.

Look For the Miracles and Tell the Stories of Transformation.

We’re talking about the ordinary moments when God’s love and grace overwhelms our sensibilities, when we see our church become submerged in God’s goodness. Here are some quick examples I came up with:

- ☞ VBC, what a miracle to see so many children, youth, and adults learning and celebrating God’s love
- ☞ A moment of welcome for a family from another culture who were visiting our church to celebrate a baptism. They specifically commented on how

welcome they felt here.

- ☞ Our members helping our brothers and sisters at John Wesley UMC this spring and summer.
- ☞ A group of our youth went to an assisted living facility near Lovely Lane UMC and cleaned up their gardens for them.
- ☞ Sally Savidge’s willingness to share what the Holy Spirit was saying to her at our Town Hall Meeting.

These are just a few examples I came up with, I know there are many, many more. I encourage all of us to take some time and look for the miracles, they are happening here, we just may need to open our eyes to see them.

We are at a turning point here at TUMC, it is time for us to focus on the work God is doing within and through our congregation and to talk about all the ways we see and experience His presence in our lives. We have gone through some rough waters, and we’re probably not done, but God has been faithful throughout and we need to share these stories and encourage one another with the truth that He is at work within us and, through prayer and discernment, He will continue to guide and direct us.

I would love to hear your thoughts on this, feel free to email me at apcorson@gmail.com.

Here is a link to the full article if you would like to read it

<http://www.congregationalconsulting.org/what-it-takes-to-revitalize-the-mainline/>

—Alicia Corson, chair,
Church Council, Towson UM Church



JOIN the FUN!

TUMC YOUTH GROUP 2015-1016

A new season is underway at TUMC and Youth Group is excited to JOIN the FUN!

Under the direction of Pastor Margery and some very devoted parents, youth education, mission work, social gatherings, and worship opportunities ROCK this year!!! Our group of 6th-12th graders will meet regularly for food, fellowship, missions, and, of course, fun!

Mark your calendar now for the **first-ever** "Welcome to Youth Group!" lunch-and-learn scheduled for **Sunday, September 13th following the 10:15am worship service.** (More details below.) Be sure to include our First Friday events, plus three consecutive Sunday meetings on your family calendar, too.

Want to get more involved in planning or assisting with youth education, meetings, activities, or missions? Contact Pastor Margery to join the Youth Council—or, simply send her an email note with your ideas at MSchammel@towsonumc.org.

THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU WHO HELPED AT VBC!

The children admire and model the youth who help lead them during VBC, and you did a great job of showing them God's love in action!!

Our youth did a fantastic job at Phoenix Rising Assisted Living facility Wednesday, June 24!!

We turned over an entire garden, replanted new flowers, and mulched. Plus, the youngest members of our crew made tissue paper flowers (with anyone who was awake!), hung wind chimes and butterflies. It was a truly collaborative effort with some hard-working folks! See their great work on the front cover!



Pictured above are youth who participated in Baltimore County Christian Workcamp the week of July 20-24.

... along with the homeowner. Adults who helped were Jim Andrew, Fred Crider, Carole Dean, Carol Sims, Margot Gerding, Cathy Anderson, Becky Engel, Don Plettenberg, and Cindy Bothwell. We painted 3 coats on the exterior of this house in Lutherville after power washing it! Thanks to Gene & Margie Bandy for delivering ice cold water each day!

WELCOME TO YOUTH GROUP!

Sept. 13th: 11:30 AM — 1:00 PM

All families with youth (ages 6th-12th grades) are invited to attend our **FUN and INFORMATIONAL** kick-off meeting for youth group this year. Eat lunch, play games, learn more about youth group, meet youth council members, sign up for missions/activities/safe sanctuary approval, and ask questions. Don't miss this amazing opportunity to get the scoop on YOUR TUMC Youth Group!!!

Childcare will be available for families with younger children.

2015-2016 Youth Group Schedule

- ★ 1st Fridays every month 7-9 PM — **Social Activity** at TUMC or off-site
- ★ 2nd Sundays of each month 11:30 AM-1:00 PM — **Boys/Girls Small Group Discussions** at TUMC, includes lunch
- ★ 3rd Sundays of each month 11:30 AM-1:00 PM — **Play/Games** at TUMC, includes lunch
- ★ 4th Sundays of each month 11:30AM-1:00 PM — **Mission Project** at TUMC or off-site, includes lunch
- ★ Special activities and events TBD



September is a great month... school starts, most of our co-workers are back from vacation, we begin to feel the change of season. Even if we are no longer at school, the move up to another level of learning gives excitement to our conversations with family and neighbors.

We celebrate that move up to another level of learning here at TUMC, too! Our children will be moving up to the next level of Sunday School and we challenge our adults to continue their growth as disciples of Christ in Sunday School and worship. Our choirs begin a season of leading us in worship, which is the work of the people- us! We continue this September to move up and move forward as we follow our Lord.
—Margery Schammel

CHILDREN

- ★ **Childcare** will be available in the cribbery (Room 122) during the 10:15AM worship Sept. 6th for ages birth-3.
- ★ Beginning Sept. 13th **Childcare** will be provided for children ages birth-3 in the cribbery throughout the morning (8:30 – after the 10:15 worship).
- ★ **Sunday School begins September 13th**, 9:00 – 10:00 AM for all ages.
- ★ **Children and Worship** begins Sept. 13th at 10:00AM for children ages 4-6 in Room 314.
- ★ **K.I.D.Z. begins Sept. 13th** for children ages 7-11, after they are dismissed from the 10:15 worship service. They begin in the sanctuary, worshipping with the church family, and are dismissed part way through the service to Room 311-313. Children need to be picked up from the classroom after the 10:15 service.

You will find registration forms and a Medical Release Form online for all children and youth. This form registers the children and youth for Sunday School, youth group, and music. You may also register at church on August 30th. There will be tables with forms in the Parlor. If you miss the August 30th sign-up date and you are not able to access the forms online, you may pick up all the forms you need from your child's Sunday School teacher or from Doug Hollida, our music director.

A new curriculum!

We will be using a new curriculum published by Cokesbury, which uses the same translation of the Bible the 3rd graders receive and which the entire church reads during worship. This curriculum is called **Deep Blue**. This Fall, the children will be learning that God's creation is good, that God made big promises to the family of Abraham, and that God gave blessings to Jacob. We conclude the Fall lessons with a look at the blessing God gave to Elizabeth and Zechariah, as we prepare to move into Advent.

THIRD GRADERS: You will receive your Bibles from the church on **October 11th at the 10:15 service**. Please plan on being there to accept the gift of God's Word!

Sunday Morning Christian Education

YOUTH

Sunday School Classes begin Sept. 13th, 9:00-10:00 AM
Middle Schoolers will meet in Room 216.
High Schoolers will meet in Room 317.
Confirmation class will be in the Fellowship Hall.
 All 8th graders and older youth who are interested in learning about their faith, the church, and asking questions are invited to attend. You may use the same registration forms which all the youth use.
We welcome a new teacher to the team for Confirmation this year; glad you are with us, Nancy Steer! We welcome back our wonderful men: Dwight Kines, Dave Morris, and Gary Neuen; you are the best.

ADULTS

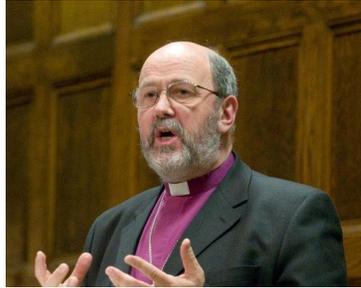
The following adult Sunday morning classes will meet **9:00-10:00AM beginning Sept. 13th**. Pick up a brochure in the church lobby for details and contact information.

- ★ Christians Under Construction — Room 111
- ★ Young Parents Class — Room 114
- ★ Tower Class — Room 214
- ★ Women's Class — location TBD
- ★ Adult Bible Study — Hoffman Room 218
- ★ Men's Class — Room 310
- ★ Discover Your Spiritual Gifts & Prayer Type **11:45 AM—12:30 PM, September 13, 20, & 27**. Classes will run for 3 weeks, then repeated October 11, 18, & 25. Contact Cathy for more info (410-823-3689). Meet in Room 317.

Christian Education

The Puzzles of the Cross: Ancient Texts, Contemporary Challenge

This fall, world-renowned biblical scholar, Dr. N. T. Wright, will be in Baltimore at St. Mary's Seminary & University. On **November 18, 7:30-9 PM**, he will deliver the free Dunning Lecture, sponsored annually by St. Mary's Ecumenical Institute. This year's topic: "The Puzzles of the Cross." The following day, **November 19, 9:00AM-4:15PM**, Dr. Wright will lead an all-day conference on "The Royal Power of the Cross." More information: www.stmarys.edu/ei. Registration: <http://ntwrightatei.eventbrite.com>



AN INVITATION FOR YOU — WEDNESDAYS!

How would you like to come to a prayer and Bible study group where you were with other like-minded friends. It always started and ended on time! You always had a reserved seat. Sometimes you even got to hear special music! Sounds good, doesn't it? But . . . wait a minute!

What's this? You say you can't come because:

You're afraid you can't be there every week? (Don't worry, we don't give out certificates for perfect attendance!) You say you WANT a certificate for perfect attendance? (Speak to the instructor about that--it can be arranged!) The chairs are too hard? (We have cushions!) You can't find your Bible? (We have plenty of extra Bibles in the room! This IS a church, after all!) It's raining? (Bring your umbrella!) It's snowing? (Don't worry about that, as nobody else would be coming that day either!) You don't know much about the Bible? (We're all here to learn more about it!) You've already read your Bible straight through? (Read it straight through again--each time you do, you learn something new!) You're afraid of final exams? (There aren't any! No secret passwords either, but it does help to know the name of the last book in the Bible, considering who OUR leader is! HINT: It starts with R, and it's not Ruth or Romans!) You've always thought about coming to a Bible study but have never been to one before? (Try ours; we're user-friendly, and you might just enjoy it so much you'll want to come back again!)

And so, here's your invitation:

We would love to have you come to our **Wednesday Morning Prayer & Bible Study**. We meet **every Wednesday morning in Room 214 from 10:30-11:30** starting **Wednesday, September 9th**. Hope to see you there!

Missions & Outreach

SEPTEMBER COMMUNION / MISSION OFFERING **EARL'S PLACE**

We are collecting Sunday, September 6 AND — throughout the month of September

Thank you for being a vital part of the community and for being a part of our family! Earl's Place is a transitional housing program, technically a shelter, **but for the men who live here, it is home.**

We are excited to share some of the things that your donations help make possible. Since we last saw you, 14 of 19 men moved to permanent housing while 17 (our capacity) are still at Earl's Place. One of our most recent residents is deaf. Prior to coming to Earl's Place, he was living in the woods in Annapolis. He had been homeless for over a year, was estranged from his family with unmanaged mental health needs. Today he is a happy and motivated individual who has reconnected with friends on Facebook, made new friends and is looking forward to returning to Anne Arundel County in permanent housing. Several men continued their education; two of them, Robert and Victor, completed the culinary training course at Moveable Feast and, following their internships, were hired.

We are also pleased to announce that **Prospect Place**, our second project, will be opening in September. Located in Rosedale, Prospect Place is a permanent supportive housing project that will provide twelve men with an efficiency apartment that will be theirs for as long as they wish, provided they follow the standard tenant rules. **You can help to make these apartments homes;** a complete wish list of items is on our registry at target.com – first name: Prospect, last name: Place. Don't feel like shopping? Your communion/mission offering during September will be very helpful!

We could go on and on, **but here is the key.** Without you and others in the community, none of this would be possible. You are changing lives every day! Thank you! We look forward to seeing you on September 6.

Sheila Helgersen, Executive Director
Casey Schurman, Board Member
United Ministries, Inc./Earl's Place
www.umhousing.org, 1400 E. Lombard Street, 21231



Missions & Outreach—continued

OUR EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY

... will be open to the public
Saturday, September 26
 9:00am to 10:30am
 in Fellowship Hall

Please place canned food donations in the Sharing Bins marked for the EFP in the church lobby. Thank you. If you would like to volunteer to help on the last Saturday of the month or to make a home delivery, contact Dwight Kines at 410-828-0792.

DISASTER KITS for UMCOR

Mission Work Area is responding to the call — HEALTH KITS in addition to the SCHOOL KITS, are urgently needed at the UMCOR HUB at Bentley Springs United Methodist Church in Parkton, Maryland.

Items needed:

- Nail clippers or metal nail files
(No emery boards)
- Single tooth brushes
(No multi-packs)
- Sturdy combs

These can be put in the marked Sharing Bin in the church lobby.

UMCOR is very specific about what goes in these disaster kits, pls.

We will assemble the health kits and school kits **Sunday, October 4 after the 10:15 worship service ... plan to stay and have lunch with us!**



ACTC's First Ever Hunger Bites Gala

Central Presbyterian Church
 7308 York Road, Towson
Saturday, October 10, 2015
 6:30-9:00 p.m.
 \$30 admission fee
 GO TO: www.actconline.info

ALLIE CORSON

Youth With A Mission

As my first year of college was coming to an end, it felt like my life wasn't going the way I wanted and that God was calling me to something different.



After time in prayer and listening for the path God wants for me I've decided to take a gap year!

From September 26th to March 6th I'll be spending time with my new YWAM LA family! YWAM stands for youth with a mission and I'll be part of their Justice Disciple Training School. The first half is spent in Los Angeles, CA and the second part is spent doing international mission work.

I'll be growing in my faith and sharing it as well as learning more about human trafficking and working to end it.

I'll need the support of my family, friends, and church while I'm away. There are three ways you can support me while I'm gone:

- ★ **Pray! Pray for my safety and spiritual growth as well as for those I'll be spending my time with.**
- ★ **Read my blog!**
alliesgapyear.blogspot.com
- ★ **Help me raise the \$4,000 I need to meet my goal.** Checks can be made payable & sent to TowsonUMC, noting on the check that it's for "Allie Corson."



FIRST FRUITS FARM
 2025 Freeland Road
 Freeland, MD 21053
 410-343-2507

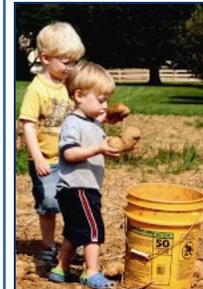
GLEANING FOR THE HUNGRY BY VOLUNTEERS — TODDLERS TO SR. ADULTS

For the past few summers we have enjoyed gleaning mission trips to First Fruits Farm in Freeland, Maryland. Last year volunteers planted, picked, and distributed over 1.7 million pounds of fresh vegetables and fruits.

Gather your family and friends for a morning mission trip at the farm where you will join other volunteers wearing hats, gloves, and sturdy shoes to do your part in serving the hungry in Maryland.

Volunteers are urgently needed now through early October.

Mornings 9:00 to 12 noon until the



weather is cooler ... then you can come in the afternoon, too.

Mondays through Saturdays

Sunday afternoons when the weather is cooler.

CONTACT CAROL BEFORE YOU GO:

FirstFruitsFarm@comcast.net

They have 3 locations, so you will need to know where to find the workers!

Now is the time to schedule your appointment

TUMCBloodDrive@gmail.com

American Red Cross
OUR CHURCH'S BLOOD DRIVE is
Saturday, September 12, 2015
between 6:30am and 12:30pm
in Fellowship Hall
 Anyone older than 17 years of age is eligible to donate (16 year olds need parental consent). Check the church website for more information. For medical or travel eligibility questions call the ARC at 1-866-236-3276.
For more information AND to schedule your life-saving donation contact Margot via e-mail TUMCBloodDrive@gmail.com or call the church office at 410-823-6511.



Opportunities to get to know each other!

COFFEE HOUR

Our time of fellowship with coffee and delicious tidbits **will begin on September 13th.**

Coffee and goodies are available in the Parlor beginning at 8:45 every Sunday.

If you are interested in helping serve or in baking, please sign up on the easel in the parlor or contact

Susan Naeny
smnphoto78@gmail.com
or Margery Schammel
410-823-2485

Women's Retreat March 4-6 2016



This year's Design Team had their first meeting on August 10, and wonderful plans for our 2016

retreat are in the making.

We will be returning to Pearlstone Center in Reisterstown where we held our 2015 retreat.

Please contact Margery at 410-823-2485 or mschammel@towsonumc.org or Sue LaHatte at slahatte@hotmail.com with any questions.

Dear Families:

I am pleased to share with you that **Hampton Lane Child Development Center** has achieved a Maryland EXCELS check level (**LEVEL 1**) rating by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). Maryland EXCELS is the state's Quality Rating and Improvement System that awards ratings to child care and public prekindergarten programs that meet increasingly higher standards in key areas that are identified nationally as contributing to high quality.



Through a process of continuous quality improvement, Maryland EXCELS programs like ours meet rigorous quality standards over and above those required by State licensing regulations and public school requirements. The Maryland EXCELS standards include Licensing and Compliance, Staffing and Professional Development, Rating Scales and Accreditation, Developmentally Appropriate Learning and Practice, and Administrative Policies and Practices. (Maryland EXCELS website www.MarylandExcels.org)

Hampton Lane Child Development Center is extremely proud to be recognized nationally as a high quality care and educational program. We are excited to be part of the Maryland EXCELS program and we will continue the process of higher level ratings and our commitment to quality improvement. Thank you for choosing our program for your child, and for recognizing the importance of choosing quality education for your child's success in school and in life.

Sincerely,

Erin Rigley
Center Director
Hampton Lane Child Development Center



ARAMINTA FUNDRAISER O's vs. Royals Join us Friday, Sept. 11 at 7:05pm

while raising awareness of child sex trafficking in Baltimore. Orioles Hooded Sweatshirt Giveaway (First 25,000 fans 15 & over) Upper Reserve (Section 316 & 318, Rows 13-25). **Tickets are \$13.00 each.** To purchase tickets, please visit <http://www.orioles.com/tix/araminta2>. On some areas of the Orioles page, the ticket may appear as \$8, but at check out, the \$5 Araminta donation is added. You also may **make a tax-deductible donation** contributing to a mentor/mentee outing to an Orioles game.

You don't want to miss this awesome night!



FUN WONDERFUL DELICIOUS INFORMATIVE DAY TRIPS

Organized for you by our most experienced!

BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND JOIN US!



Autumn Leaf Train Ride

*Wilmington,
Delaware*

**Saturday,
October 24, 2015**

From Towson U.M. Church:

Bus departs at 10:00a and returns approx. 6:45p

From Oak Crest Village:

Bus departs at 10:30a and returns approx. 6:15p

First stop is lunch:

- At the Old Country Buffet in Newark, Delaware

Second stop is at the Wilmington & Western Railroad:

- For a 2 ½ hour old time train ride through the colorful autumn countryside from Wilmington to Hockessin, Delaware, traveling across bridges, winding through narrow rock cuts, and whistling past homes in the beautiful valley of the Red Clay Creek. We will go back in time when the steam locomotive ruled the rails in antique passenger coaches pulled by a coal-burning steam locomotive or an early-generation diesel locomotive. We will disembark in Hockessin for a layover to browse the local shops before we re-board the train for our return trip.

Cost & Payment Information:

- The cost is \$65 per person, which includes transportation, lunch, train ride, and taxes and tips.
- **The deadline to make your reservation is September 1.**
- Please make your check payable to: "Senior Adult Council"
- (include your phone number & email address)
- Mail to: Nancy deLaski (410-581-3881)
9416 Groff's Mill Dr., Owings Mills, MD 21117



*American Music Theatre
Lancaster, Pennsylvania*

"The 2015 Christmas Show"

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Bus departs from TUMC at 10:45a

Returns to TUMC at approx. 7:15p

It's the time of year to be dazzled and delighted with musical merriment! The critically acclaimed *American Music Theatre* singers, dancers, and orchestra are back with an all-new show featuring the very best holiday music, dynamic dancing, and even a visit from Santa himself. It's a holiday event full of yuletide whimsy and winter wonderland! This holiday production will leave you with new Christmas memories and have you reliving wonderful memories of Christmas past. Join us and experience this musical gift with the entire family!

Before the show:

- We will enjoy a delicious smorgasbord lunch at Bird-in-Hand Family Restaurant located in Bird-in-Hand, PA

Cost & Payment Information:

- The cost is \$90 per person, which includes transportation, smorgasbord lunch, reserved seats for the show, and all taxes and tips, including the driver.
- Please make your check payable to: "Senior Adult Council;" **deadline is October 30.**
- (include your phone number & email address)
- Mail to: Judy Meinhardt
1319 Terry Way, Fallston, MD 21047
- Questions? Contact Judy at 410-893-5661

Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference Report

May 27-30, 2015

Meeting less than a mile from where the Methodist Church began in 1784, and just a few miles from where riots broke out in late April 2015, United Methodists of the Baltimore-Washington Conference started and ended their Annual Conference Session with one thought: being Christ's presence in the City of Baltimore.

More than 1,200 clergy, laity, and guests gathered at the Marriott Waterfront. They heard and saw riveting reports of how they have responded following the riots that devastated the Sandtown-Winchester neighborhood of southwest Baltimore. Bishop Marcus Matthews presided over the event. Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings - Blake greeted the assembly, thanking United Methodists for opening their doors on the day after the unrest and for still being there in ministry and mission long after the TV cameras had left. The Conference members heard a report from the laity and clergy who serve the area. Rev. Michael Parker, who lives in the neighborhood but who pastors Ames UMC in Bel Air, was commissioned Probationary Elder by Matthews on May 30. He was joined by 12 other candidates in that category along with two who were commissioned as Deacon.

On Thursday evening, the Circle of Grace process occurred. Conference members gathered in small groups in the hotel ballroom,

sitting in circles of 10-12 people. There, guided by the Bishop, members listen to one another discuss four resolutions that had come to the conference seeking approval before being sent to the 2016 General Conference. The first petition sought to remove from the Book of Discipline the sentence, "The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching." The other three resolutions concerned issues between science, theology, and the church. Members voted on each resolution. That petition will now go to the 2016 General Conference. Only General Conference has the authority to change the Book of Discipline. A resolution in the Book of Resolutions around "God's Creation and the Church" was approved by the members. Two other petitions – one opposing the teaching of creation in public schools, and one on climate change – were defeated.

Jen Ihlo, chair of the BWC's Rules Committee, brought a resolution that would incorporate the Circle of Grace process into the conference rules. Currently, conference rules must be suspended to use the Circle of Grace process. Matthew Sichel, a lay member from Wesley UMC in Hampstead, moved to amend the resolution. His amendment sought to bring a way into the Circle process whereby petitions and/or resolutions could be amended during the process. Currently, this is not possible. Bishop Matthews

halted the discussion for the Memorial Service, a so-called "order of the day."

During lunch the three had talked. Sichel and Ihlo came to the podium and announced that they were withdrawing the resolution and the amendment. They will work together on a new resolution by Fall.

At the Memorial Service, members celebrated the lives of bishops, clergy, clergy spouses, and laity who had died in the previous conference year.

The Conference members:

- ✦ celebrated the ministry of Sandy Ferguson, who is retiring from the Conference Staff as Director of Connectional Ministries after 29 years of service.
- ✦ Honored the retirement of 16 clergy representing more than 490 years of service.
- ✦ Elected clergy and laity delegates to the 2016 General and Jurisdictional Conferences.
- ✦ Overwhelmingly approved the \$17.2 million budget.
- ✦ Celebrated that 82% of the BWC congregations paid 100% of their apportionments in 2014.

Report taken from the "UM Connection," June 2015

Report Submitted By
Eleanor W. Brown,
Lay Member to the Baltimore-
Washington Annual Conference
Towson United Methodist Church



**DUE DATE FOR ARTICLES IN THE NEXT HIGH SPIRE
OCTOBER issue is due Tuesday, September 15, 2015**

All articles need to be on time and either in the marked folder outside Room 315
— OR — you may e-mail to Cathy Anderson at communications@towsonumc.org. Thank you!

Event photos taken by our church member, Steve Houk, may be viewed at www.flickr.com/photos/94929393@N05/ great pictures of the church family!

Enjoy viewing the article about our church on Wikipedia:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Towson_Methodist_Church
 This entry was created and photographed by James G. Howes, member of TUMC since 1972.

**TOWSON
 UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
 501 Hampton Lane
 Towson, Maryland 21286
 410-823-6511

www.towsonumc.org
towsonprays.blogspot.com

Business hours are Monday through Thursday 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

ODE TO PLUTO

O distant planet, way beyond the sun,
 Mysterious in your God-ordained far place,
 The speeding spacecraft's mission nearly done,
 For now at last we see your wondrous face!
 Unto our holy God, you sing with joy,
 Who placed you in the orbit where you roam,
 Through outer space's vast and marv'lous void,
 You travel on your far-flung path alone.
 O little Pluto, we at last behold
 Your features, once unknown, becoming clear,
 Small planet, outermost and icy cold,
 No longer Solar System's unknown sphere.
 Following your vast wide orbit well,
 As God's amazing glory you do tell.



Copyright 2015 by Joyce Keedy.

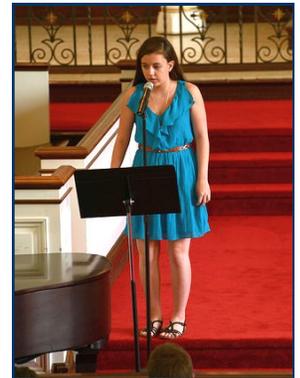
This summer, we have been amazed by the beautiful pictures of Pluto sent back to us from the New Horizons spacecraft. It is almost beyond belief that this little planet we are looking at is some 3 billion miles away from us! Truly, the heavens ARE telling the glory of God! When I see pictures like this, I am left breathless with awe. I marvel at His wonderful handiwork, and I worship Him!

This is a new poem, just written this summer, to capture some of the wonder of it all. It will be included in my upcoming sixth book, to be published in the next few months. And yes, Pluto, in my book, you ARE a planet!!

LORD, what do You want to do through me to accomplish Your will in your church?

The Summer in Pictures

taken by our photographer, Steve Houk



Clockwise, starting bottom left, Anna Garman and Austin Morris in the skit, "You're the Man," 7/26; our youngest VBC campers singing with Joyce Keedy on trumpet, 7/30; Katherine Houk and Emily Cummings acolyting, 8/2; Ashleigh Schmidt, soloist, 7/26; VBC campers singing for congregation, 8/2





John Wesley United Methodist Church
3202 W. NORTH AVE. AT HILTON ST.
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21216

“But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.” Col. 3:14 (NKJV)

On behalf of the John Wesley United Methodist Church, we thank you and the members of Towson United Methodist Church for your love expressed to this community after the unrest in Baltimore due to the Freddie Gray incident and a call went out for volunteers to serve this community. Your congregation answered that call willingly giving either of their time, talents and/or treasure. We thank you and could not have done it without you. Your presence was well-timed and needed. We thank your congregation for the way you expressed the love of God towards this community.

Thank you for joining us on the National Day of Prayer where so many were comforted by the prayer shawls you gave; what an awesome blessed ministry including your donation of food and toiletries items along with the time you gave by volunteering to serve and distribute those items to this community. You put a smile on the faces of so many. We appreciated the members of your congregation who could not give their time, but felt called to give their service in other ways. God be praise! We thank you for those who also volunteered for our “Dare to Believe in Baltimore” summer camp. It was because of your members volunteering we were able to serve over 50 kids during our two weeks of camp. Some of the kids would not have had the opportunity to attend summer camp if it had been for us offering a free camp. You and your congregation made this possible. The donation of those computers was an awesome unexpected blessing; adding another dimension to the camp and the kids were excited.

We are all called to show the love of God by our actions and your congregation demonstrated God’s love in a way that will be memorable for the people of this community. We thank God for YOU!! What an awesome testimony to the connection of the Baltimore Washington Conference. We look forward to serving with you all in the future.

To God Be Praised!!

Rev. Dr. Bruce Haskins, Senior Pastor

Rev. Twanda Prioleau, Associate Pastor

TOWSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MINISTRY TEAM



Rev. Dr. Marcus Matthews, Resident Bishop

Rev. Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, Superintendent, Baltimore Metropolitan District

Carole Dean, TUMC’s Church Lay Leader

Rev. Dr. Roderick J. Miller, Lead Pastor

Rev. Margery Schammel, Assistant Pastor

Rev. Doug Hollida, Minister of Music

HAMPTON LANE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

410-825-0008 cdcdirector@towsonumc.org

A Ministry of Towson United Methodist Church — Child Care with an approved preschool
www.hamptonlanecdc.org



WHAT IS THIS?

No, it's not to check the nutrition value of your fast food ... but it is for your smart phone! If you have an app to scan QR codes, then **HERE IT IS** ... the new Towson United Methodist QR code. You can donate to the church online from your home or pew using your credit card or online banking! It's safe and secure. **This includes your Sunday offerings, Capital Journey payments, and monthly mission offerings.**

439 Members in our congregation received this letter:

We have been reviewing the membership records here at Towson United Methodist Church and notice that we have not heard from you recently. Our aim is to be current with respect to your desire whether or not to continue as a member of this church.

We are asking you to fill out the form and return it to us.

Thank you for taking the time to let us know your intention regarding your church membership. We pray you will find your way to worship and serve God either here at TUMC or at another church. May God bless you and your loved ones on your journey of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

- I would like to retain my membership at Towson United Methodist Church.
- I desire a call from a pastor
- I am home bound and would like to be on the visitation list
- I no longer wish to be a member of Towson United Methodist Church. If you would like us to withdraw additional family members from Towson membership, please indicate their names.

439 members in our congregation received this letter, individuals of all ages.

139 responded, so far. Of this number, 66 asked to be removed (some because they moved out of state), 67 wish to remain members, and 6 were returned by the post office because of bad addresses.

If you were one of the 439 who received this letter and have not responded yet, please do so in the near future. Don't be shy — we want to hear from you! THANKS!!

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP AT TOWSON

8:15 AM Traditional Service in the Chapel. This service has communion every Sunday and usually piano or organ accompaniment.

10:15 AM *Worshipping God Together* in the Sanctuary. This service is blended and richly varied. About twice a month we open with contemporary songs led by our praise band. And, about twice a month we are more traditional, with one of these Sundays including an old-fashioned-hymn-sing. Every Sunday, we hear from the 3,000 pipes of our glorious organ. And, every Sunday we are blessed by one or more of our five vocal choirs or three handbell choirs. You may hear anything from an a cappella anthem in Latin from the 1500s, to a classic with the organ, to a recent song accompanied by our praise band. Communion is offered on the first Sunday of the month, and is open to all (& we have gluten-free bread, too, just ask the server).

Towson United Methodist Church is a community of Christ-followers growing in love of God and neighbor. This is what we at Towson UMC believe Christian discipleship is, what we are to be, and what Jesus meant when he sent his followers to “make disciples”—

We believe every person is of sacred worth and created in God’s image. We commit to Jesus’ example of inclusive love, care, and intentional hospitality with persons of every race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, faith story, physical or mental ability, economic status, or political perspective. We respect our diversity of opinion and expressions of faith. Therefore, as God loves us, so let us love and serve in the name of Christ. — adopted by the TUMC Church Council February 2, 2015